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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

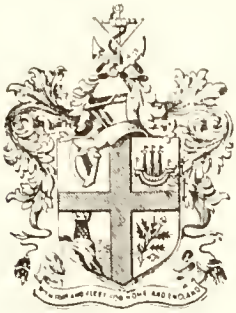
Medical Officer of Health

for the Year ended 31st December, 1948

By

W. A. MUIR, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

1949

BOROUGH OF  GILLINGHAM

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Health Department,
Municipal Buildings,
Gillingham, Kent.
June, 1949.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

The birth rate was 19 per 1,000 of the estimated population compared with 23 per 1,000 in the previous year. As this is the lowest rate since 1943 it would appear that the high rates recorded in the immediate post-war years are unlikely to recur.

The infantile mortality reached the record low figure of 28 per 1,000 live l irths. Of the 35 infants who died under one year, more than half succumbed in the first week of life.

Housing

Due to the shortage of houses it is impossible to demolish many of those beyond repair but it was found necessary to make 12 Demolition Orders. The number demolished during the year as the result of formal action under the Housing Act during this and previous years was 20.

National Health Service Act, 1946

Under this Act which came into force on 5th July, the greatest part of the health functions of the Corporation were transferred to the County Council viz., maternity and child welfare services, domestic midwifery service, provision of home helps, day nurseries, ambulances and protection against diphtheria.

Many of the statistics recorded in the Report refer therefore to the first six months only of the year.

Many of the Staff became transferred officers under the Act including Dr. Dunlop, Deputy Medical Officer of Health who now gives 90 per cent. of her time to County duties

I am indebted to Mr. Pett, Chief Clerk for compiling the figures in the Report and also to Mr Hedgecock, Chief Sanitary Inspector for supplying much useful information.

I acknowledge with gratitude the assistance I have received from all members of the Staff.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. MUIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF—PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS

Medical Officer of Health

*W. A. Muir, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

*Meta L. Dunlop, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officers:

A. L. Kelly, B.A., M.B. (part time).
C. Manners Bell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (part time).

Dental Surgeons:

William C. Griffiths, L.D.S., R.C.S. (School Health Service).
F. J. Bloor, L.D.S. (Eng.) (Maternity and Child Welfare—part time until 4/7/48).
F. A. Markham, L.D.S. (School Health Service—part time until 31/7/48)
R. O. Borgars, L.D.S., R.C.S. (School Health Service—commenced 1/8/48)

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

*F. J. Hedgecock, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

*R. C. Langley, Cert.S.I.B.
*F. G. Barney, C.R.S.I.
*H. Evans, Cert. S.I.B.
*L. Trice, Cert.S.I.B.
*E. L. Taylor, Cert. S.I.B.

Health Visitors: *(K.C.C. 5/7/48).*

*(a) R. Hopkins, S.R.N., S.C.M.
*(b) N. Legg, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
*(b) E. M. Ross, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.C.N.
*(c) H. Parry, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
*(c) J. Tombleson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
*(c) E. W. Jordan, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
*(d) H. V. Wilson, S.R.N., S.C.M., Health Visitor's Cert.
*(e) A. C. Neesam, S.R.N., S.C.M. (appointed 1/10/48).

Municipal Midwives:
(Transferred to K.C.C 5/7/48).

E. Daly, S.R.N., S.C.M.
W. D. A. Maisey, S.R.N., S.C.M.
B. McCorquodale, S.C.M.
J. E. Montgomery, S.R.N., S.C.M.
M. G. Salter, S.C.M.
G. I. Stone, S.C.M.
A. Willey, S.C.M.
A. M. Richards, S.C.M. (Weekend relief duties only).

Chief Clerk:

F. Eric Young. (Resigned 6/10/48).
S. Pett.

Clerks:

J. Clark.
E. Dwyer.
R. C. Avery. (School Health Service).
P. J. Bowgen. (Transferred to K.C.C. 5/7/48).
B. Verrall.
M. E. Cooper. (Resigned 5/7/48).
K. Neesam. (Resigned 4/7/48).
P. B. Sayer. (Appointed 23/8/48).

Dental Attendants :

L. Scott.
B. D. Ellis. (Commenced 1/8/48).

Disinfector and Mortuary Attendant:

John Sparks.

Rodent Operative:

H. Horsewell. (Resigned 16/6/48).
H. E. Churchman. (Appointed 5/7/48).

NOTES.

* Indicates officials to whose salaries contribution is made under Public Health Acts or by Exchequer Grants.

(a) General trained nurse, whole time Maternity and Child Welfare.

(b) General trained nurse, half time to Maternity and Child Welfare and half time to School Health Service.

(c) General trained nurse, two-thirds time devoted to Maternity and Child Welfare and one-third to School Health Service.

(d) General trained nurse, three-quarters time devoted to School Health Service, one quarter to Maternity and Child Welfare.

(e) General trained nurse, whole-time School and Clinic Nurse.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres (land, inland water and foreshore)...	11,201
Rateable Value (April, 1948)	£379,262
Estimated Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (1948-9)	£1,535

In 1947-8 the total Rates were 18/10 in the £ (excluding water rates and charges).

Extracts from Vital Statistics

Population (Registrar General)	63,600
Live Births :	
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident civilian population	19.8
Still Births :	
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ...	19.4
Deaths (all causes) :	
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population	12

Deaths from Puerperal Causes :

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal and post abortive sepsis	0.00
Other Maternal Causes	0.00
Total	0.00

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age :

All Infants per 1,000 live births	28
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	17

Deaths in Public Institutions :

Two hundred and sixty-two or 39.4 per cent. of the total, took place in Institutions.

Natural Increase of Population :

This is measured by the excess of births over deaths. The figure for the year 1948 was 496 and for previous years as follows :—

Year	Natural Increase of Population.
1938	373
1939	324
1940	160
1941	239
1942	287
1943	468
1944	544
1945	527
1946	728
1947	647
1948	496

Cancer :

	Cancer Death Rate.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1938	1.6	16.8
1939	1.4	13.0
1940	1.9	13.1
1941	1.8	12.7
1942	2.0	14.7
1943	2.0	16.1
1944	2.0	15.9
1945	2.1	16.6
1946	1.9	15.9
1947	1.9	15.0
1948	2.4	19.9

Violence :

Deaths from road accidents numbered 4, from suicide 9 and from "other violent causes" 11.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Smallpox :

No cases were notified during 1948.

Scarlet Fever :

Notifications numbered 36. 23 cases were removed to hospital. There were no deaths. Six cases proved not to be Scarlet Fever.

Diphtheria :

Notifications numbered 7 There were no deaths.

Three cases proved not to be Diphtheria.

TABLE SHOWING NOTIFICATIONS OF DIPHTHERIA

From 1918 to 1948

Period	No. Notified	Deaths Registered.
1918-27	78 (Avg.)	—
1928	213	10
1929	179	17
1930	42	1
1931	19	1
1932	8	—
1933	17	1
1934	52	4
1935	27	5
1936	17	2
1937	42	1
1938	157	4
1939	86	1
1940	28	1
1941	5	—
1942	7	—
1943	3	—
1944	3	—
1945	2	—
1946	2	—
1947	NIL	—
1948	4	—

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

January—June :

Under 5 yrs....	579
Over 5 yrs ...	23
Re-immunised	279

Puerperal Pyrexia

Four cases were notified—all recovered.

Enteric Fever

One case was notified during August. The infecting organism was B. Typhosus.

Anterior Poliomyelitis

In July, a girl aged 11 years was notified.

Dysentery

One case of dysentery occurred caused by B. Sonne. The patient was a male aged 80.

Malaria

One case was notified. The patient was infected when abroad.

Pneumonia

Cases notified numbered :—

Lobar pneumonia	29
Broncho pneumonia	1
Influenzal pneumonia	1
Acute primary pneumonia	3
Pneumonia	9
Total	43

Measles and Whooping Cough

	Number of cases notified	Deaths
Measles	1126	—
Whooping Cough	335	3

Hospital Treatment of Infectious Diseases

Admissions to Keycol Hill Hospital numbered 39 compared with 20 in the previous year.

The following Table gives details :—

Disease	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	23*	—
Diphtheria	7†	—
Measles	2	—
Pneumonia	2	—
Whooping Cough	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—
Streptococcal Meningitis ...	1	1
Meningitis	1‡	—
Enteritis	1	—

* 5 cases proved not to be Scarlet Fever.
† 3 cases proved not to be Diphtheria.
‡ Proved negative.

Scabies :

Cases treated numbered 56, compared with 98 for 1947. Children are painted with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion at the clinics and adults supplied with Benzyl Benzoate Cream.

Disinfections :

Houses disinfected by Formalin spraying in connection with tuberculosis cases numbered 152 compared with 237 in the previous year.

Tuberculosis :

Notification of new cases :—

	Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population	Non-Pulmonary Rate per 1,000 of population
1937	0.7	0.3
1938	0.8	0.2
1939	0.6	0.4
1940	1.3	0.2
1941	1.3	0.5
1942	1.5	0.4
1943	1.7	0 4
1944	2.27	0.5
1945	1.24	0.5
1946	1.45	0.4
1947	1.69	0.3
1948	1.05	0.3

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1930

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Number on Register at 1st January, 1948	437	90	527
Number on Register at 31st December, 1948	451	95	546

Notifications

Table compiled from local records, giving details with regard to sex, age, etc., of notified new cases during 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	1	1	1	2
5—15 ,,	—	—	5	3
15—25 ,,	8	10	3	1
25—35 ,,	13	7	1	1
35—45 ,,	8	6	1	—
45—55 ,,	5	1	—	2
55—65 ,,	5	1	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—
Total ...	41	26	11	9

Tuberculosis Death Rate

The following table is inserted for purposes of comparison :

Year	Death Rates per 1,000 of Population		
	All Forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1938	0.58	0.49	0.08
1939	0.50	0.44	0.05
1940	0.97	0.80	0.17
1941	0.91	0.78	0.12
1942	0.92	0.73	0.19
1943	0.87	0 74	0.13
1944	0.83	0.72	0.11
1945	0.62	0.48	0.14
1946	0.74	0·63	0.11
1947	0.71	0.58	0.13
1948	0.61	0.55	0.06

Particulars of patients from the Gillingham Area dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary, Gillingham, during 1948.

(These figures were kindly supplied by Dr. S. R. C. Price, Chest Physician).

	Adults		Children		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Pulmonary	42	25	7	3	49	28
Non-pulmonary ...	3	6	4	4	7	10
Total	45	31	11	7	56	38
	76		18		94	
Non-tuberculous ...	46	210	62	75	208	285
Grand Total	191	241	73	82	264	323
	432		155		587	

Total attendances numbered 2736.

Institutional Treatment

Institutions to which patients were sent during 1948:—

County Hospital, Lenham	2
County Hospital, Chatham	16
County Hospital, Orpington	2
Keycol Hill Sanatorium	2
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Margate	3
Kettlewell Hospital...	3
Preston Hall Sanatorium	2
Willesborough Hospital	1
Eversfield Chest Hospital	1
Farnborough Hospital	2
Total	34

Venereal Diseases :

I am indebted to Dr. Prebble, Director of the County Council V.D. Clinic in Rochester, for the subjoined figures.

New Patients—Gillingham :

	Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	4	7	11
Soft sore	—	—	—
Gonorrhœa	19	8	27
Non-Venereal	43	18	61
Totals ...	66	33	99

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

(1st January—4th July, 1948)

Midwives :

The number of registered midwives at 4th July was 15, 7 were members of the Corporation Staff.

Home Visiting :

Home visits under the M. and C.W. Scheme at 4th July numbered 4,957.

The following is a summary of home visits :—

	1948 (Half-year)
Visits to expectant mothers	17
First visits to living infants	629
Re-visits under 1 year	1281
Visits 1 to 5 years	2434
Visits *re* Measles	347
Visits *re* Whooping Cough	113
Visits *re* Chicken Pox	12
Visits *re* Mumps	3
Visits *re* Boarded-Out Children	23
Other Visits	98
Total	4957

Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids :

Children under 5 years were examined at the Child Welfare Centres and, if requiring operation, referred to a private doctor or to hospital.

Ophthalmic Treatment :

39 children affected with defective vision were examined at the ophthalmic clinic by Dr. Dunlop and glasses prescribed for 22. Attendances numbered 39.

Dental Defects :

The following is a summary of the work during 1st January—4th July, 1948 :—

Number of sessions held	15
Number of expectant mothers treated	47
Number of nursing mothers treated	14
Number of children treated	27
Total attendances of expectant mothers	80
Total attendances of nursing mothers	28
Total attendances of children	47
Extractions :	
Permanent—Expectant mothers	219
Permanent—Nursing mothers	108
Temporary	67
Fillings :	
Expectant mothers	18
Nursing mothers	9
Children	9
Administrations of Anæsthetics :	
Expectant mothers	61
Nursing mothers	21
Children	31
Other Operations :	
Expectant mothers	2
Nursing mothers	1
Children	—

Dentures supplied :—

Full upper and lower	5
Full upper and part lower	5
Part upper	3
Part upper and part lower	2
Gross cost	£132 18s. 0d.
Amount recovered from patients	£30 1s. 7d.
Net cost to Corporation	£102 16s. 5d.

Child Welfare Centres :

Total attendances numbered 13,424, of which 3,201 were in respect of children aged 1 to 5 years.

The following Table gives details of each Centre from January to July :—

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham Centre
Children under 1 year on register for first time...	383	134
Children 1 to 5 years on register for first time...	44	19
Average attendance per session	92	75
Children referred for treatment to hospital or private doctor	13	2
Umbilical Hernia strapped	24	4

Supply of Milk to Mothers and Children

Corporation Scheme :

Number of packets of dried milk supplied during 1st January—4th July, 1948 :—

	Rainham	Gillingham	Total
(*a*) Free	34	9	43
(*b*) Sold	935	3186	4121
Totals ...	969	3195	4164

Distribution of National Dried Milk :

	Number of Packets		
	Supplied Free	Sold	Total
Distributed by the Ministry of Food	122	25881	26003
Supplied by the Corporation	—	—	—
Totals ...	122	25881	26003

	£	s.	d.
Cost of dried milk supplied free by the Corporation ...	4	10	3

Clinics for Expectant Mothers

The number of expectant mothers attending for the first time before 5th July was 181.

Summary :

	Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre
Expectant mothers	133	48
Attendances by expectant mothers ...	355	160
Post-natal cases	2	2
Attendances by post-natal cases ...	8	9
Post-natal cases referred for treatment...	—	1
Found not pregnant	1	—
Average attendance per session ...	14	6

The attendances were as follows :—

Balmoral Gardens Centre	Rainham Centre
363	169

Ante-natal and Post-natal Examinations by Private Practitioners :

The following is a summary of the examinations made :—

Number of first ante-natal examinations	225
Number of second ante-natal examinations ...	113
Number of post-natal examinations	73
Total	411

Gas-Air Analgesia:

Four Municipal Midwives were qualified to administer Gas-Air Analgesia

Name	Date qualified
Miss G. I. Stone	Prior to 1947
Miss W. D. A. Maisey	1947
Mrs. B. McCorquodale	1947
Miss A. Willey	1948

Supervision of Midwives

The Corporation was the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts, 1902-1936. Fifteen midwives gave notice of their intention to practice.

	Domicil'y Midwives	Midwives in Inst'ns	Totals
1. Total number of midwives practising at the 4th July in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :			
(*a*) Employed by the Local Supervising Authority	8	—	8
(*b*) Employed by Voluntary Associations :	—	6	6
(*c*) In private practice	1	—	1
TOTALS ...	9	6	15

	Domicil'y Cases	Cases in Inst'ns	Totals
2. Number of cases in the area of the Local Supervising Authority attended during 1st Jan. to 4th July by midwives :-			
(*a*) Employed by the Council :—			
As Midwives	160	—	160
As Maternity Nurses...	61	—	61
(*b*) Employed by Voluntary Associations :—			
As Midwives	—	132	132
As Maternity Nurses ...	—	98	98
(*c*) In private practice :—			
As Midwives	37	—	37
As Maternity Nurses ...	13	—	13
TOTALS As Midwives	197	132	329
As Maternity Nurses ...	74	98	172

Home Helps

Number of Home Helps employed by the Corporation :— at 5th July.

	1948
(a) Whole time	6
(b) Part time	7
Number of households receiving help ...	93

Domestic Helps

Number of domestic helps employed by the Corporation (all were part-time workers)	40
Number of households receiving domestic help	72

Infant Mortality :

Deaths of Infants under 1 year numbered 35 which represents an infant mortality rate of 28 per 1,000 births compared with 45 per 1,000 in the previous year.

The rate for London was 31, for England and Wales 34, and for " the Great Towns " including London 39.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS DURING 1948

CAUSE OF DEATH (Local register)	AGE AT DEATH									
	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Gastro enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	1	—	—	1	2	1	2	2	1	8
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformations	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Marasmus	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
T.B. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Other causes	7	—	—	1	8	1	1	1	1	12
ALL CAUSES	19	—	—	2	21	3	3	6	2	35

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND INFANT DEATHS FOR THE YEARS 1939 TO 1948

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Number of still births	31	26	33	35	31	28	22	41	39	25
Number of neo-natal deaths	24	29	21	35	30	29	31	33	33	21
Total number of still births and neo-natal deaths ..	55	55	54	70	61	57	53	74	72	46
Number of deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age ..	8	11	18	20	21	28	31	16	32	14
Number of live births	1032	931	931	994	1138	1212	1231	1470	1446	1261
Number of still births	31	26	33	35	31	28	22	41	39	25
Total live and still births	1063	957	964	1029	1169	1240	1253	1511	1485	1286

MORTALITY RATES CALCULATED PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS

Still births	29	27	34	34	26	22	17	27	26	19
Neo-natal deaths	23	31	22	35	25	23	24	22	22	16
Deaths of infants 1 to 12 months of age	8	12	19	20	18	22	24	10	22	11
Still births and all deaths up to 1 year	60	69	75	88	70	68	66	59	71	47
Infant mortality **per 1,000 live births**	32	47	44	56	45	47	50	33	45	28

Premature Infants

Total Number of Premature Babies Born in Gillingham :

(i)	at home	15
(ii)	in hospital	30

Number Born at Home :

(i)	who were nursed entirely at home	14
(ii)	who died during the first 24 hrs.	1
(iii)	who survived at end of one month	11

Number Born in Hospital :

(i)	who died during first 24 hrs....	1
(ii)	who survived at end of one month	28

Maternal Mortality

There were no deaths associated with pregnancy. The rate for England and Wales was 1.02.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Thirty-five water samples were taken during the year ; 11 from the Gillingham area and 24 from the Rainham area. All proved satisfactory.

19,024 dwellings are supplied directly from the mains, this is 98.3% of the total number of dwellings in the Borough, which consist of :—

Houses	18,519
Houses and shops	706
Houses and business premises	33
Licensed houses	95
Boarding houses	3
Total dwellings	19,356

Sanitary Inspection

This portion of the report has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. F. J. Hedgecock, Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Premises, Etc., Visited During 1947

	No. of Visits
Milk shops and dairies and retailers of bottled sterilised milk	316
Cowsheds	7
Bakehouses	39
Slaughterhouses	23
Factories, workshops and workplaces	55
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	25
Re notified infectious diseases	184
Houses (filthy or verminous)	283
Refreshment houses or premises where food is prepared	618
School lavatories	25
Shops under Shops Acts...	618
Public lavatories	2366
Drains tested	736
Complaints received	2464

Inspection and Supervision of Food;

The subjoined Table shows the premises on the registers and the number of inspections made.

	On Register 31st Dec.	No of visits during 1948
Bakehouses	16	39
Dairies and Milkshops	18	85
Retailers of bottled sterilised milk	58	
Cowsheds	6	7
Slaughterhouses	—	23
Fried Fish Shops	18	40
Pressed and Preserved Meat Premises	41	3
Restaurants	35	107

Milk Samples:

Two samples from a dairy herd proved negative for T.B.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :

Particulars of samples taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year :—

Articles	No. of Samples
Milk	173
Semolina	2
Vinegar	6
Coffee	3
Crunchetts	1
Sausage Meat	2
Salad Dressing	1
Macaroni	1
Meat Pies	1
Gravy Powder	1
Gelatine	2
Patent Barley	3
Whisky	1
Sweetmeats	1
Pickles	1
Baking Powder	2
Cake Flour	2
Tonic (Quinine)	1
Edible Cake Decorations	1
Table Salt	1
Quince Jelly	1
Saccharin Tablets	1
Piccallili	1
Horseradish	1
Steamed Pudding Mixture	4
Choc-malt Spread	1
Fruit & Mineral Drinks	2
Total	217

Proceedings were taken in one case ; the vendor was fined £5 and ordered to pay £2 2s. od. costs.

Unsound Food :

Amount of food condemned weighed 5 tons, 15 cwt. 10½ lbs. This included tinned foods, flour, cheese and hams.

Housing Summary :

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year :—

(1)	(*a*)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1814
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	7008
(2)	(*a*)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Regulations	47
	(*b*)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	291
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	16
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	583

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 614

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	1233
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(*a*) By owners	1029
	(*b*) By local authority in default of owners	124

(b) Proceedings under Housing Act :—

(1)	Demolition Orders	12
(2)	Closing Orders	2
(3)	Undertakings not to re-let for human habitation	2
(4)	Houses demolished during 1948 as the result of formal action under the Act ...	20

Nuisances Abated

Water Closets :

Lavatory basins provided	6
New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted	194
Water closets re-built	16
New water closets constructed	3
Water closet fittings repaired (water)	231
Water closet seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired...	148
Water closet pans cleansed by tenants	1

Water Supply :

Pipes repaired	24
Internal supply provided	2

Yards :

Drained and paved with cement concrete	93

Sinks and Baths :

Glazed stoneware sinks fixed	61
Sink waste pipes provided and fixed	132

Drainage :

Drains Repaired	378
Subsidiary sewers cleared by Health Department ...	973
Drains cleared by owners	5
Inspection chambers repaired	10
Cesspools cleared by Health Department	207

Dampness :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	924
Eaves guttering and down pipes provided or repaired	496
External walls protected from dampness	504
Internal walls repaired	880
Damp-proof courses inserted	148
Ventilation provided under floors	51
Forecourts paved with cement concrete	13

General :

Disused cesspools filled in	5
Accumulation of refuse in yard removed	14
Dangerous cellar flaps repaired	47
Cooking ranges and coppers repaired	262
Sashes, doors, frames, floors, and stairs repaired ...	1760
Ceilings repaired and distempered	593
Back additions underpinned and repaired	12
Dustbins provided	426

Preliminary and Abatement Notices

During the year the following notices were served :—

Informal Notices for the abatement of various nuisances	949
Abatement Notices concerning various nuisances (Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936) ...	583
Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Maintenance of a public sewer)	128
Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Defective sanitary appliance)	262
Section 44 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Construction of W.C.)	9
Section 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Notice to repair defective closet)	31
Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Leaking Cesspools)	29
Gillingham Corporation Act, 1931, Section 72, respecting choked or defective drains	121
Section 56 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Yard Paving)	47
Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (Provision of Dustbins)	144
Total	2303

Destruction of Rats and Mice :

Inspections :—

	Primary	Re-inspection
Dwelling houses	202	225
Other premises	59	64
Inspection pits	18	63
Sewer manholes	658	766
Refuse tip	3	9

Summary of work done :—

	Pre-baited	Poison baited
Dwelling houses	333	92
Other premises	113	48
Inspection pits	83	35
Sewer manholes	383	362
Refuse tip	3	3
Dwelling houses cleared of rats and mice by Health Department		52
Other premises cleared of rats and mice by Health Department		47
Number of rats killed (Ministry Formula)		4,127

Factories Act, 1937 :

There are 199 factories on the register ; 59 inspections were made. Outworkers premises numbered 55.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs :

The number of houses found to be infested was :—

Council Houses	38
Other Houses	531
Bedding removed and disinfested	319
Total number of rooms sprayed for Bugs, T.B., etc.	2,136
Total number of articles disinfected	5,351

MORTUARY

30 bodies were received and 23 post-mortems performed.

Table showing:—(*a*) The distribution in age groups of infectious disease cases notified during 1948.
(*b*) The number removed to Hospital.

(Local Records).

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified (*Diagnosis Corrected*) At Ages Years													Total cases removed to Hospital
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	Over 65	
Scarlet Fever	30	–	2	3	1	1	15	7	1	–	–	–	–	18
Diphtheria	4	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	4
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	3
Erysipelas	12	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	3	7	1	–
Pneumonia	43	2	3	1	3	3	11	2	2	1	2	11	2	5
Malaria	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–
Measles	1126	31	98	145	156	162	501	16	6	9	2	–	–	6
Whooping Cough ...	335	33	42	51	40	41	116	3	–	1	2	5	1	3
Enteric Fever	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Dysentery	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–

Causes of Deaths amongst Civilians, Live Births and Still Births as provided by the Registrar-General :—

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	—	2
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	2	1	3
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	11	24	35
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	3	4
8. Syphilitic Diseases	2	2	4
9. Influenza	—	—	—
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Acute polio-myelitis & polio-encephalitis ...	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis	1	—	1
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only) and Uterus (females only)	6	8	14
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	15	15	30
15. Cancer of Breast	—	17	17
16. Cancer of all other sites	45	46	91
17. Diabetes	2	2	4
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	39	55	94
19. Heart Disease	114	118	232
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ...	16	12	28
21. Bronchitis	26	15	41
22. Pneumonia	11	10	21
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	5	8
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum ...	8	—	8
25. Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	—	1	1
27. Other Digestive Diseases	3	6	9
28. Nephritis	9	12	21
29. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	5	3	8
32. Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	10	4	14
33. Suicide	4	5	9
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	1	4
35. Other Violent Causes	6	5	11
36. All Other Causes	28	22	50
All Causes	373	392	765
Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—			
Legitimate	23	11	34
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	23	12	35

Births	For Infant Mortality, etc. M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—			
Legitimate	611	590	1201
Illegitimate	33	27	60
Total	644	617	1261
Still Births :—			
Legitimate	16	8	24
Illegitimate	—	1	1
Total	16	9	25

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944 Gillingham is an " excepted district."

Number on School Roll	8533
Average attendance December, 1948	7357
" Periodic " cases examined	3249
Total medical examinations	6381
Visits to schools by nurses	332
Visits to homes by nurses	1088
Inspections by school dentists	3923
Treated by school dentists	2394
Percentage of average attendance found verminous	10.7
Percentage of average attendance excluded for verminous conditions	2.4
Total attendances at various clinics (dental excluded)	8364

Nutrition

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education children examined at periodic medical inspections are classified as " Good," " Fair," or " Poor."

The figures for the past nine years are as follows :—

Year	Good %	Fair %	Poor %
1940	17.92	79.20	2.88
1941	15.02	81.98	3.00
1942	20.07	74.69	5.24
1943	20.00	75.74	4.35
1944	22.14	73.03	4.83
1945	22.90	72.60	4.50
1946	19.10	77.40	3.50
1947	17.50	77.50	5.00
1948	34.80	61.80	3.40

Heights and Weights

Age	BOYS			GIRLS		
		Average			Average	
	Number examined	Height in inches	Weight in lbs.	Number examined	Height in inches	Weight in lbs.
5-6 years	433	44.1	44.0	472	43.5	42.6
6-7 ,,	67	45.8	48.0	55	45.1	45.7
7-8 ,,	177	48.7	53.2	142	49.9	56.1
8-9 ,,	217	49.6	55.9	131	50.1	57.6
9-10 ,	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-11 ,,	324	54.3	71.4	205	54.4	70.2
11-12 ,,	84	55.5	74.9	107	55.1	72.6
12-13 ,,	367	57.8	88.2	228	58.9	87.4
13-14 ,,	78	59.1	87.1	56	60.0	94.1
14-15 ,,	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-16 ,,	75	65.9	121.2	—	—	—
16-17 ,,	3	67.7	121.7	—	—	—

Provision of Milk

Milk is provided free of charge to all school children. During the year an average of approximately 7,328 children were supplied with milk each day. This represents 85.8% of the total number of children on the roll.

Infectious Diseases

The following summary gives the number of patients excluded during the years 1939-48 (Private schools included.)

	Scarlet Fever Cases	Diphtheria Cases
1939	121	49
1940	7	11
1941	8	2
1942	101	4
1943	222	1
1944	54	1
1945	62	1
1946	22	1
1947	31	—
1948	17	4

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-Pox, Mumps, etc.

	1946	1947	1948
Measles	292	178	500
German measles	23	18	—
Whooping cough	72	105	146
Chicken-pox	275	45	149
Mumps	254	40	80

Following-up by Nurses

The nurses paid 1087 home visits, of which 941 were to make enquiries with regard to children suffering from infectious diseases

Summary of Nurses Work

(1)	Total visits to schools	332
(2)	Attendances at routine medical inspections	149
(3)	Attendances at clinics	542
(4)	Visits to home re	
	(*a*) Defective children	147
	(*b*) Infectious diseases	941
(5)	Examination of heads and bodies re cleanliness	20,988
(6)	Notices sent re nits (children not excluded from school)	260
(7)	Notices sent re nits and vermin (children excluded from school)	177

Attendances at Treatment Clinics :

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1948	Total 1947
Ringworm	413	46	459	319
Ear defects	458	67	525	456
Impetigo	425	39	464	692
Scabies { School children ...	81	11	99	184
Scabies { Others	1	—		
Scabies { Contacts	3	3		
Other skin diseases	331	6	337	323
External eye disease	496	154	650	424
Other conditions	4,002	1,415	5,417	4,069
Totals	6,210	1,741	7,951	6,467

Children suffering from the following conditions made first attendances for inspection :—

	Balmoral Gardens	Rainham	Total 1948	Total 1947
Catarrh, sore throats, colds etc.	138	24	162	154
Vermin of head or body, nits, etc.	149	38	187	223
Ringworm	35	8	43	24
Impetigo	77	19	96	127
Scabies { School children ...	45	4	56	98
Scabies { Others	1	—		
Scabies { Contacts	3	3		
Other skin diseases	139	6	145	112
Defective vision, sore eyes, etc.	281	81	362	273
Nose and throat diseases ...	61	44	105	100
Tubercular and pretubercular conditions	4	—	4	7
Chorea	1	8	9	5
Epilepsy	1	—	1	1
Ear disease	104	29	133	145
Heart disease	4	—	4	2
Rheumatism	2	—	2	13
Deformities	1	15	16	3
Convalescents from infectious diseases	47	17	64	45
Other diseases and defects ...	872	500	1,372	1,327
Totals	1,965	796	2,761	2,659

Orthoptic Clinic

During the year 2 cases were referred to St Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester for the orthoptic treatment of children suffering from squint.

Nose and Throat Defects

56 children received operative treatment at All Saints and St. Bartholomew's Hospitals.

Ophthalmic Clinic

301 children made 413 attendances ; glasses were prescribed in 148 cases.

Errors of Refraction :

Hypermetropic astigmatism ...	33
Myopic astigmatism	18
Mixed astigmatism	15
Hypermetropia	35
Myopia	47
Total ...	148

The work of the clinic may be summarised thus :—

Sessions held	40
Individual children attended	301
Total attendances	413
Glasses prescribed	148
Glasses not required or no change necessary	219
Referred to hospital	2

Uncleanliness

The average number of visits by nurses to school departments was 4. Total examinations numbered 20,988 and 785 individual children were found unclean.

The following percentages are interesting :—

Year	Percentage of average attendance found verminous	Percentage of average attendance excluded
1938	6.4	3.2
1939	4.6	1.3
1940	7.1	1.7
1941	6.4	2.2
1942	11.2	4.9
1943	10.9	3.3
1944	8.9	3.4
1945	7.9	2.9
1946	5.7	2.8
1947	11.5	2.9
1948	10.7	2.4

Handicapped Children

The following were on the Register at 31-12-48.

	No. on Register.	No. in Special Schools.
Blind Pupils	3	3
Partially Sighted Pupils	4	3
Deaf Pupils	5	5
Partially Deaf Pupils	5	—
Delicate Pupils	31	4
Diabetic Pupils	1	—
Educationally Subnormal Pupils ...	186	4
Epileptic Pupils	1	1
Maladjusted Pupils	50	1
Physically Handicapped Pupils ...	6	6
Pupils Suffering from Speech Defects	9	—
Pupils Suffering from Multiple Disabilities	2	1
Number of pupils reported to be Mentally Deficient (Section 57 of the Education Act, 1944)... ...		4

STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE I

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

A.—Periodic Medical Inspections

Number of inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

Entrants	1,029
Second Age Group	733
Third Age Group	728
Total	2,490
Number of other Periodic Inspections ...	759
Grand Total ...	3,249

B.—Other Inspections

Number of Special Inspections	2,861
Number of Re-Inspections	271
Total	3,132

C.—Pupils found to require treatment

Group (1)	For defective vision (excluding squint) (2)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table IIA (3)	Total individual pupils (4)
Entrants	21	121	133
Second Age Group ...	33	105	136
Third Age Group	23	79	101
Total (prescribed groups)	77	305	370
Other Periodic Inspections	34	75	106
Grand Total	111	380	476

TABLE III

TREATMENT TABLES

GROUP I.—MINOR AILMENTS
(excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V)

	Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year
SKIN—	
Ringworm—Scalp—	
(i) X-Ray treatment	—
(ii) Other treatment	6
Ringworm—Body	31
Scabies	60
Impetigo	85
Other skin diseases	120
Eye Disease ... ... (External and other, but excluding errors of refraction, squint and cases admitted to hospital).	162
Ear Defects	107
Miscellaneous ... ... (e.g. minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.)	789
Total	1,360
(b) Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics ...	7,951

TABLE III

GROUP II.—DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT
(excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

	No. of defects dealt with
(1) ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint).	301
(2) Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group 1). ...	—
Total	301
(3) No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were	
(a) Prescribed	148
(b) Obtained (prior to 5-7-48)	35

GROUP III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT

	Total number treated
Received operative treatment—	
(a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis ...	56
(b) for other nose and throat conditions ...	—
Received other forms of treatment	—
Total	56

GROUP IV.—ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools	3
(b) No. treated otherwise, e.g. in clinics or out-patient departments	68

GROUP V.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT AND SPEECH THERAPY

No. of pupils treated—	
(a) under Child Guidance arrangements ...	19
(b) under Speech Therapy arrangements ...	3

TABLE IV. DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers—	
(a) Periodic age groups	2,970
(b) Specials	953
(c) TOTAL (Periodic and Specials) ...	3,923
(2) Number found to require treatment ...	2,073
(3) Number actually treated	2,394
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	5,775
(5) Half-days devoted to—	
(a) Inspection	29
(b) Treatment	700
Total (a) and (b)	729
(6) Fillings—	
Permanent Teeth	3,305
Temporary Teeth	570
Total	3,875
(7) Extractions—	
Permanent Teeth	653
Temporary Teeth	4,209
Total	4,862
(8) Administration of general anaesthetics for extractions	2,023
(9) Other Operations—	
(a) Permanent Teeth	1,457
(b) Temporary Teeth	365
Total (a) and (b) ...	1,822
(10) Details of other operations in (a) above—	
Scalings	89
Polishing...	694
Dressings—Permanent	590
—Temporary	365
Orthodontic	84
	1,822

TABLE V.

INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i)	Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorized persons	20,988
(ii)	Total number of individual pupils found to be infested	785
(iii)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944).	2
(iv)	Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	2